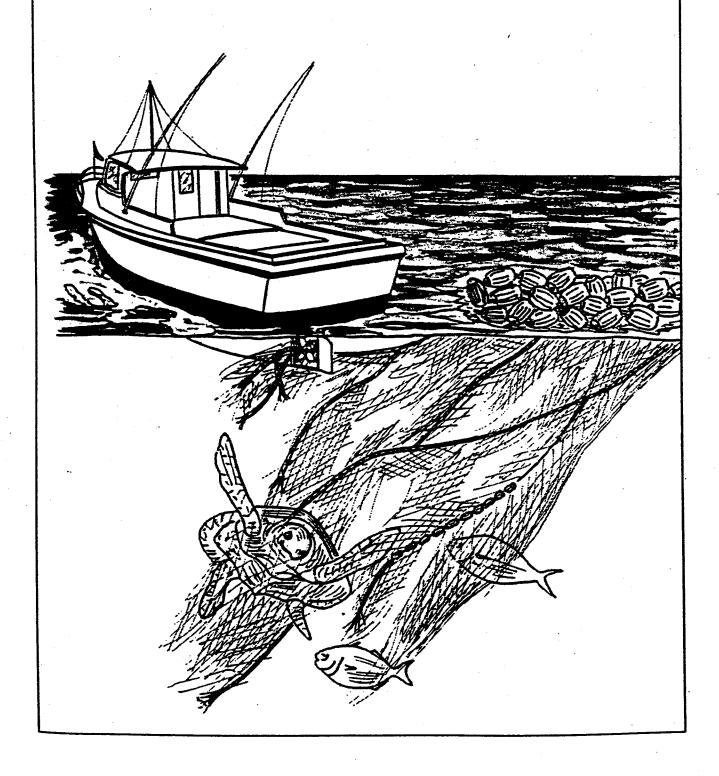
POSTER SESSION



PLASTIC POLLUTION AT SEA AND IN SEABIRDS OFF SOUTHERN AFRICA (Poster presentation)

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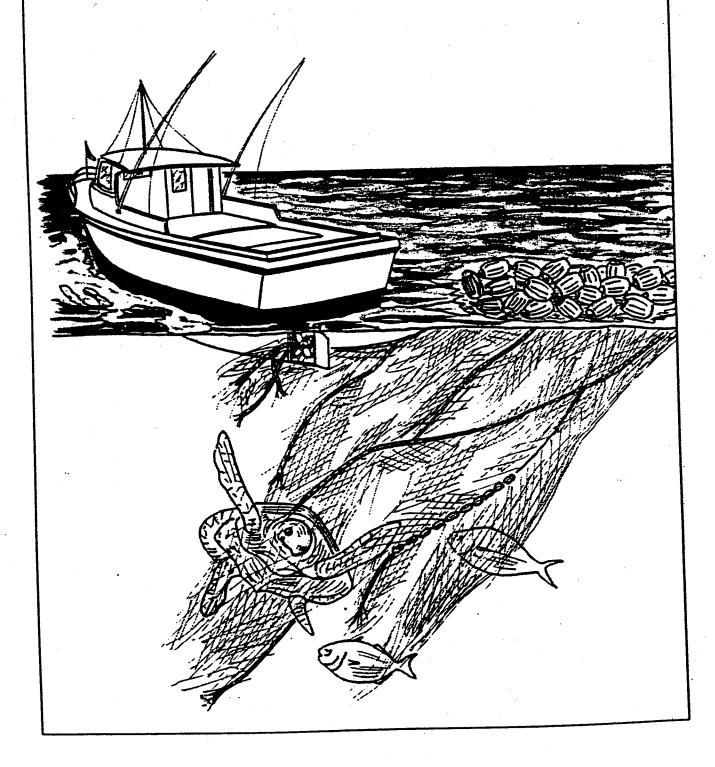
ABSTRACT

Plastic objects were first recorded from seabird stomachs in the northwest Atlantic Ocean in 1962. Since then, this phenomenon has become increasingly widespread and abundant. Recently, plastic objects have been found in the stomachs of 22 seabird species from southern Africa and the African sector of the southern ocean, including birds restricted to the pack-ice. Three species, pintado petrel, Daption capense; blue petrel, Halobaena caerulea; and great shearwater, Puffinus gravis, have plastic objects in more than 90% of stomachs. In exceptional circumstances, ingested plastics make up 0.7% of body mass and completely fill the muscular stomach (gizzard). Although much has been hypothesized, the effects of these plastic objects are unknown.

Studies are under way in attempting to determine the spatial and temporal distribution of plastic pollution at sea and on the coasts of southern Africa using neuston trawls and beach surveys. The incidence of plastic ingestion by birds is being related to diet, foraging area, and behavior. The possible effects of ingested plastic objects on seabirds are being tested by physiological and energetic experiments on captive birds which will be fed differing amounts of plastic objects and compared with controls.

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WORKING GROUP REPORTS



REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MARINE DEBRIS

(Dayton L. Alverson, Chairman)

1. Review the results of the Fate and Impact of Marine Debris (FIMD) workshop sessions and determine the extent and the nature of the marine resource interaction.

The FIMD workshop provided ample evidence the debris of terrestrial and shipborne origin was widespread in the marine environment. A number of papers, mostly descriptive in character, suggests debris interacts with a wide variety of marine mammals, fish, turtles, birds, and invertebrates. The consequences and quantitative impacts of this interaction do not appear to be well understood nor documented for most observed interactions; however, substantial evidence of a qualitative character demonstrates that added mortality over those generated from natural causes is occurring for species of marine mammals, birds, fish, turtles, and shellfish. For the northern fur seals, the evidence of entanglement and increased mortality of young resulting from entanglement in large mesh trawl webbing is relatively strong, but there is a need to evaluate this hypothesis in terms of long-term availability of large mesh trawl nets and other factors such as disease. For many other species of mammals and fishes, invertebrates, seabirds, etc., evidence of death, wounds, feeding problems, etc., is apparent, but quantification of the impacts on the dynamics of impacted populations will require more study. Regardless, there is adequate data on hand to suggest that the distribution, diversity, and quantity of marine debris are increasing (in most areas) and that the consequences to marine life and human safety should not be taken lightly.

- 2. Determine if the workshop has missed any pertinent research efforts which address the marine debris problem and assess whether this information should be acquired to fully update the present state of knowledge.
 - a. There is a body of data within the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission documents on net design and usage in the north-eastern Pacific region. These data should be further explored to evaluate Charles W. Fowler's hypothesis that significant added mortality to young seals occurs as the result of entanglements.
 - b. Most data presented on fishing effort reflected foreign information on U.S. fishing outside of state waters. Considerably more data are available on U.S. fishing effort in the eastern Pacific. The additional data would help to broaden our understanding of possible debris-marine resource and debris-human resource interaction.

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- c. Information on fouling of fishing and recreational vessels as well as other waterborne traffic should be collected to understand the full scope of impacts of marine debris.
- d. Historical data on entanglement should be further explored in detail with regard to fur seals to determine if specific sizes of mesh can be identified which generate the greatest potential mortality.
- e. Fishermen groups and net manufacturers should be asked to assist in identifying specific types of nets and net components which are most involved in entanglement.
- f. Additional information is needed on seabird entanglement and ingestion of plastic materials.
- g. Incidentally caught organisms themselves can become marine debris when discarded at sea. Further studies are needed to quantify the amount of this type of debris generated and its impacts.
- Determine if the present state of knowledge is adequate to identify possible mitigation.

Although the present state of the problem is adequate to demonstrate that debris—marine resources interactions are occurring and that many of these interactions are generating added mortality to species of marine life as well as endangering human life in many instances, the quantitative aspects of the problem in terms of the population dynamics of the animals involved and risk to humans are unknown. Similarly the source of some debris is not clear. Finally the cost of mitigation in terms of its value to problem resolution in some instances is unclear. There are, nevertheless, possible actions that should be explored to address the most obvious and dangerous problem areas. These include:

- a. Education of the fishing community as to the extent of the problem, addressing the loss of marine mammals, fish, seabirds, sea turtles, and invertebrates and danger to human life.
- b. Consideration of regulating mesh sizes of materials (e.g., nylon) used in the wings and body of trawls. The validity of the assumption that large mesh webbing causes entanglement problems needs confirmation. Could entanglement observations result from high survival of animals encountering this gear but high mortality be associated with the more common smaller mesh? This is not likely but the possibility should not be overlooked.
- c. Regulation of the discharge of webbing and other harmful debris.
- d. Development of charts of known snags to reduce net losses by fishing vessels.

- e. Requirement for identification of fishing nets to identify source and areas lost.
- f. Urging U.S. commitment to limit international waste disposal at sea.
- g. Expanding public cleanup projects.
- h. Requiring vegetable fiber hangings or escape panels on pots.
- 4. Determine which additional information is necessary to identify mangement actions which will alleviate the marine debris-marine resource interaction.
 - a. Further explore hypothesis regarding the added mortality caused from trawl webbing and plastic bands on fur seals and other potential sources of mortality, in particular disease, which might explain declining population sizes. Consider at sea verification of entanglement and death. Also study disease factors by reinstituting pelagic high seas studies. Expand beach studies in winter to verify entanglement deaths.
 - b. Expand study of wintering areas of birds.
 - c. Study fate of lost fishing nets through experimental design studies.
 - d. Investigate life of nets and breakdown processes after loss. Also develop a catalogue to help the public identify net components and materials.
 - e. Confirm sources of major debris and expand studies of their distribution in the marine environment.
 - f. Develop standardized beach survey methodology (see manual by Theodore R. Merrell, Jr.). Also study impacts of beach transport of debris and its effect on beach survey studies.
 - g. Collect information from fishing industry on derelict fishing nets and disablement of vessels by marine litter (see Auke Bay Laboratory format).
 - h. Expand use of submersibles in studies of lost gear on the seabed.
 - i. Enlist support of Korea, Japan, and Taiwan in a study of the scope of net losses, etc., from high seas gill net fisheries for squid. Also, request aid of international organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) in determining net losses at sea.
 - j. Consider a new international scientific forum to discuss the debris problem and other natural resource and environmental problems in the North Pacific region.

- k. Evaluate the scope of the entanglement problem for marine mammals in other major world trawling areas. Do the same problems exist?
- 1. Considerations need to be given to the potential benefits of marine debris. There is evidence that some marine birds and fish benefit from marine debris.
- m. Information should be obtained on the extent to which Asian fisheries contribute to floating and beach debris in the Bering Sea and the North Pacific.
- n. Investigate current use and needs of plastic bands and potential design alterations which could alleviate associated problems.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPACTS OF DEBRIS ON RESOURCES

(Douglas G. Chapman, Chairman)

After reviewing some of the questions raised in background sessions, this group decided to deal first with general aspects and then to consider problems on a resource or species basis. For each of these, the Working Group attempted to: (1) define the problem and the problem material, (2) suggest information needed, (3) provide recommendations to obtain the information or to begin mitigation of the problem, and (4) note any other relevant points.

1. General.

a. Information needed.

- (1) What is the fate of different gear types in different locales (and similar information for other debris, particularly bands)?
- (2) How long are the different types of debris likely to have an impact, that is, cause entanglement?
- (3) What are the rates of gear loss for fisheries, for which ghost fishing seems to be a problem?

b. Recommendations relevant to mitigation.

- (1) Require net identification.
- (2) Develop a reference collection of debris, particularly nets.
- (3) Reduce sources of debris by educational programs.
- (4) Evaluate the costs and benefits of removal of debris from beaches on a periodic basis.

c. Other comments.

- (1) To assist in scientific research to be undertaken on marine debris problems or mitigation, it is desirable to have clear definitions of the problem.
- (2) It needs to be recognized that marine debris can have positive benefits and these should be recognized and, if possible, assessed.

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2. Fur seals.

a. Problem.

For fur seals, it is clear that the problem of marine debris centers on (i) trawl net fragments and (ii) bands, usually of plastic. Seals entangled in trawl net fragments are impeded in swimming and diving and hence, have higher energy costs and lower feeding efficiency. They may also cause the seals to be more subject to predation. Bands around the seals' necks can cause lesions and ultimately death from suffocation.

b. Information needed.

- (1) Confirmation of level of mortality that to date has been estimated by indirect methods.
- (2) Studies as to whether fur seals become entangled with equal probability in netting of different mesh sizes.
- (3) Determination as to whether the distribution of net debris at sea is the same (in regard to size, type, etc.) as is found on the beaches.
- (4) Theoretical work or experimental studies should be carried out to relate drag of netting, etc., on entangled seals to their rate of survival.
- c. Recommendations to obtain information or for mitigation.
 - (1) Radio tag and monitor entangled seals.
 - (2) Set up experiments utilizing marked net debris near rookery islands.
 - (3) Carry out additional beach and sea surveys; it may be necessary to survey at sea using several methods.
 - (4) Explore the possibility of obtaining insight into the problem or into mitigation through comparison of different pinnipeds.

d. Other points.

It was emphasized that although marine debris (trawl net fragments and bands) is at the moment the most plausible explanation of the recent fur seal population decline, other possible explanatory hypotheses should continue to be investigated.

3. Fisheries.

a. Problem.

Marine debris impacts fisheries through possible problems of vessel operations and through mortality on commercial fish of interest to

the fishery. Lost or discarded gill nets or gill net fragments appear to be the primary problem for both of these impacts.

b. Information needed.

- (1) Quantitative information is needed on the types of problems caused by net entanglement on fishing vessel operations as well as their frequency.
- (2) Information is needed on the level of mortality of commercial fish stocks in ghost fishing gear.

c. Recommendations.

- (1) Seek information from and cooperation with fishermen on the effects of marine debris on fishing vessel operations.
- (2) If information on the amounts of ghost gear at sea and the longevity of impact were to become available, it would be possible to incorporate the mortality due to ghost gear into population dynamics models and thus, determine full impact.
- (3) Studies should be undertaken on the costs and benefits as well as the possible options in making part or all of the net of biodegradable material.

4. Monk seals.

a. Problem.

Trawl net fragments are those debris items that have heen found on monks seals and are perceived to be the main source of possible mortality. The rate of entanglement and, hence, of mortality is unknown but any loss is serious for this endangered species.

b. Information needs.

The information needs are much the same as those for the fur seal though it will be more difficult and less appropriate to carry out any experimental work on animals of this endangered species.

c. Recommendations.

- (1) Carry out entanglement studies on captive animals.
- (2) Clean up net debris on the beaches and in the lagoons of the islands and atolls inhabited by monk seals. This should be done on a continuing basis.
- (3) Continue to monitor populations to determine the number of pups born and other population dynamics parameters but also, to determine the number of entangled seals and as possible, to remove the entangling material.

5. Birds.

a. Problem.

Marine debris impacts marine birds in two different ways, through entanglement and through ingestion. In regard to entanglement, lost and discarded gill net and gill net fragments are the prime cause, though it is believed that active fisheries represent a much more serious problem than ghost fishing. Plastic pellets are implicated as the cause of the ingestion problem.

b. Information needs.

- (1) Population dynamics studies are needed of two or three species of birds that are most seriously involved in debris entanglement.
- (2) The impacts of ingestion are not well understood and physiological studies and experiments are needed to determine such impacts.
- (3) Ingestion of plastic pellets may involve a hydrocarbon contamination problem and studies need to be made to determine if this is so and what impact it might have.

c. Recommendations.

- (1) Whatever steps are possible should be taken to seek elimination of dumping of effluent from manufacturing plants.
- (2) As feasible, ocean surveys should be carried out to determine the level, distribution, and if possible, the source of plastic pellets. It was suggested that directed surveys are unlikely to be feasible but it may be possible to use platforms of opportunity.

6. Marine turtles.

a. Problem.

Although entanglement has been observed, ingestion of various types of marine debris, particularly plastic, seems to be the more serious potential problem.

b. Information needed.

- (1) Similar to birds, the effects of plastic ingestion and the possibility of a hydrocarbon contamination effect are unclear. Hence studies are needed to determine if such effects exist and what their mortality implications would be at the individual level.
- (2) Information is needed on the impact of such effects at the population level.

c. Recommendations.

- (1) The stranding network in which stranded turtles are collected needs to be expanded and steps taken to assure that all stranded turtles are examined, as far as this is possible.
- (2) Collection of turtles should be made for stomach analyses. Again this is most likely to be feasible from platforms of opportunity.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FATE OF MARINE DEBRIS

(James D. Schumacher, Chairman)

1. Research needs.

We believe that the extent, nature, and fate of debris are not well defined, although debris is clearly a problem throughout the world oceans. It is essential that research activities receive close international coordination.

- a. More information is required on the quantity, type, distribution, and change with time of the amount of debris. The following strategies could address the problem of debris:
 - Develop sampling devices for marine debris such as neuston nets with grappling hooks, and perhaps moored automatic collectors.
 - (2) Conduct beach surveys: expand present efforts in time and space, mark or remove debris so that the rate of accumulation can be estimated, and standardize reports from all nations.
 - (3) Do site-specific studies in the following environments:
 - (a) The eastern Bering Sea (Pribilof Islands) where there are low currents, large mammal populations, and extensive fishing efforts.
 - (b) Hawaiian Island waters, where there are endangered species and existing programs (monk seals) which would allow comparisons between beached and at-sea material.
 - (c) North-south sections along longitudes in the eastern and western Pacific (i.e., across convergence features and upstream and downstream).
 - (4) Conduct "ship of opportunity" surveys from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other research vessels.
 - b. Examine the timing and rates of change of the threat potential of debris. How does debris change mechanically (e.g., nets become balls), chemically (buoyancy effects), and biologically (plant growth). Once beached, is debris no longer a problem; can it be returned to sea or be a problem on the beach itself? To what extent is benthic debris a threat to animals?

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- c. Investigate the mechanisms of entanglement, ingestion, or wounding of individuals with marine debris. Obtain better estimates of the rates of death at sea caused by derelict gear and other debris. Evaluate the impact of entanglement and ingestion of marine debris on animal populations.
- d. Examine the potential impact of demersal gill nets on marine fauna.
- e. Examine historical records of monthly mean atmospheric pressure to determine the variability of surface currents. Evaluate the utility of using mean monthly atmospheric pressures as an index of the drift of marine debris.
- f. Determine how activities will be coordinated to facilitate the exchange of ideas, data, and techniques amongst the international community.
- 2. The present state of knowledge suggests the following mitigating actions:
 - a. Enhance communications to:
 - (1) Change human attitudes toward the environment--the sea, even at its greatest depths, and beaches are not endless garbage pits. Encourage and facilitate the proper disposal of debris.
 - (2) Provide incentives to fishermen to cut packing bands and to return net fragments (e.g., nets continue to harvest fish, foul boats, and harm marine mammals and birds--The Oregon Experience).
 - b. Conduct materials research:
 - (1) Print "please cut" on bands, develop snap-off bands, and bands with biodegradable weak links.
 - (2) Can materials that may potentially become marine debris be made degradable?
 - (3) Can trawl net material be made negatively buoyant?
 - c. Continue to remove and quantify debris from monk seal habitat.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MANAGEMENT NEEDS

(Charles Karnella, Chairman)

The Working Group on Management Needs (Group), while recognizing that further research is indicated to quantify certain aspects of entanglement in and ingestion of debris, strongly believes that the data presented also indicate that a variety of management actions need be promptly undertaken as well. In recognition of this fact, the Group urges the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies take the following steps:

1. Program management.

The immediate needs in this area are that:

- a. A person of appropriate stature with the National Marine Fisheries Service be appointed program coordinator; and
- b. A mechanism be established whereby overall program progress can be effectively reviewed at periodic intervals.

2. Public information and education.

Recognizing that greater benefits are likely to be realized as a result of positive rather than negative incentives, Group participants urged that significant emphasis be placed upon public information and education and that steps specifically be taken to:

- a. Work with fisheries organizations and the fishery management councils to develop and carry out comprehensive information and education programs for foreign fishermen, working within the exclusive economic zone, and U.S. fishermen;
- Work with appropriate national and international organizations to undertake cooperative comprehensive information and education programs; and
- c. Work with relevant industries, such as has been done with elements of the plastics industry, on public education programs.

3. Technology.

While recognizing the actions already taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a center for purposes of identifying debris and photographs of debris, the Group concluded that further needs indicated in this area are:

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- a. A reference catalogue of netting materials be developed;
- b. Actions be taken to develop and implement improved or alternative methods of fishing that will diminish the likelihood of gear loss;
- c. Use be made of degradable materials and other gear alterations;
- d. Efforts be undertaken to develop economically attractive methods for recycling plastics retained at sea;
- e. Economical and effective systems be developed to mark gear through color coding or other means for retrieval and identification of source:
- f. Systems be developed to facilitate and simplify means of retaining damaged gear onboard for onshore disposal; and
- g. Modifications to plastic packing bands be developed to reduce entanglement problems.

4. Debris cleanup.

Group participants concluded that immediate steps to remove existing debris from the environment are clearly needed and concentrated efforts should be directed to reducing the rate at which new debris is deposited. The management steps recommended are:

- a. To undertake cleanup programs to remove existing debris from shore areas and the water column;
- b. To assign priority to areas where the density of debris is such that it affects endangered, threatened, or commercially valuable species;
- c. To require that all potentially harmful debris be retained onboard vessels until proper disposal is possible;
- d. To encourage the removal of debris from the environment and prevent the discarding of additional debris, positive incentives such as financial rewards for the return of discarded netting material should be considered as should possible negative incentives; and
- e. To take such actions as may be necessary to assure the proper disposal of unwanted materials in a nonharmful manner.

5. Regulations.

Group participants, having considered presentations on the legal issues involved, concluded that the current state of our knowledge of the problems warrants immediate initiation of certain regulatory actions and exploration of a variety of other measures. The recommended steps are that:

- a. Appropriate use be made of the several existing treaties, laws, and programs, including amendments where necessary, so as to minimize and as possible stop the deposition of harmful debris;
- b. Other countries be requested to examine their domestic authorities for similar purposes as in "a" above.
- c. Gear damage compensation programs be reviewed to lessen unnecessary contributions to lost net debris;
- d. The Secretary of Commerce review his rulemaking authority under the Fishermen's Protective Act to help reduce gear loss;
- e. The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act be reviewed to determine whether additional steps can be taken under its authority to reduce gear disposal at sea;
- f. Consideration be given to amending the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to include provisions for U.S. fishermen on gear disposal at sea and the reporting of abandoned gear comparable to those applicable to foreign fishermen;
- g. Fishermen be advised that the purposeful disposal of fishing gear in the territorial sea is prohibited under the Clean Water Act;
- h. The U.S. ratify optional Annex V of the Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and encourage other fishing nations to become signatories;
- i. The U.S. consider "regional seas" agreements under the United Nations Environment Programs for waters adjacent to the U.S.;
- j. Existing U.S. treaties, laws, and relevant programs (including those in "a" above) be reviewed to determine if they can be used to reduce debris, other than fishing debris, from land and water sources; and
- k. Consideration be given to the development of a broad range of positive (financial) and negative (regulatory) incentives to reduce the deposition of debris in the marine environment.
- 6. Identification of problems and impacts.

The Group concluded that:

- Existing data on the impacts on marine organisms of nonbiodegradable debris from foreign and domestic fisheries be analyzed to document the magnitude of this problem;
- The rates of accumulation and disappearance of synthetic debris on selected beaches be monitored;
- Information developed by stranding networks be monitored as an index of levels of entanglement;

- d. A standardized program to monitor debris ingestion and entanglement on a regular long-term basis be developed and implemented;
- e. A reporting program to monitor entanglement of vessels in lost or discarded fishing gear be undertaken; and
- f. The impact of lost or discarded fishing gear and other marine debris on marine mammals, birds, turtles, fish, and human beings be monitored;
- g. Assess on a continuing basis the type and quantity of debris loss in domestic and foreign fisheries, with emphasis on trawl and pelagic drift gill net fisheries of the North Pacific; and
- h. Identify problems and impacts on certain fisheries; programs related to debris entanglement should be coordinated with programs related to incidental take.

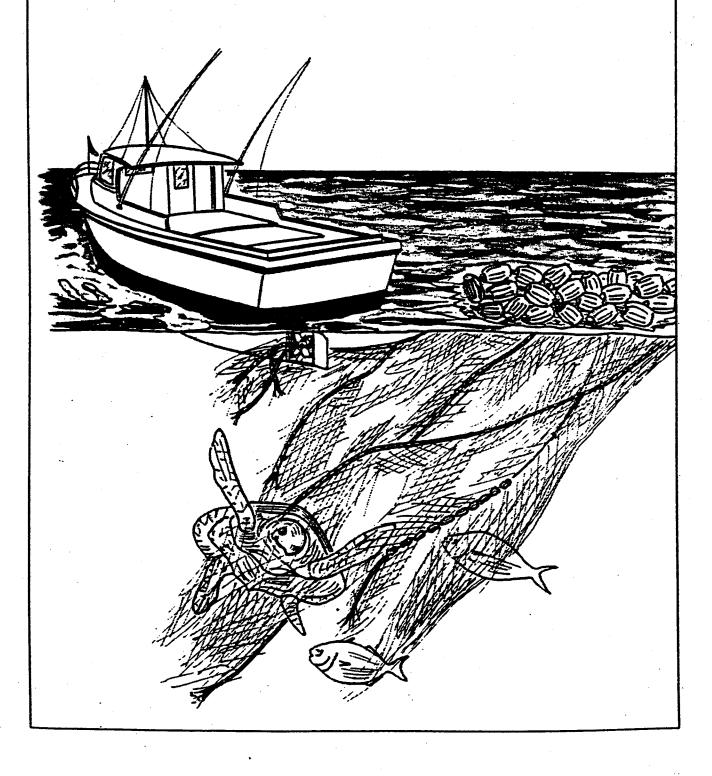
7. Disentanglement.

The Group believes that known methods for disentangling ships and animals should be widely disseminated to those likely to be in need and that efforts should be devoted to developing and publicizing improved techniques for gill net disentanglement.

8. Workshop results.

The Working Groups recommend that the papers, recommendations, and workshop proceedings be forwarded to other responsible agencies including the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Interior, Defense, State, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate congressional committees with a request that they address these issues.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

STEERING GROUP

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APPENDIX B

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Workshop
- 2. Workshop Sessions
 - a. Legal framework
 - b. Session I Source and quantification of marine debris
 - c. Session II Impacts of debris on resources
 - d. Session III Fate of marine debris
 - e. Working Group Meetings
- 3. Special Session Identifying management needs
- 4. Film showing
- 5. Plenary Session
- 6. Closing of the Workshop

APPENDIX C

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APPENDIX D

LIST OF TITLES--BACKGROUND PAPERS AND WORKING PAPERS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N. Wallace

Bibliography on entanglement.

K. Middleton

Ghost gillnets haunt both fishermen and scientists.

R. J. Morris

Floating plastic debris in the Mediterranean.

M. J. Bean

United States and international authorities applicable to entanglement to marine mammals and other organisms in lost or discarded fishing gear and other.

N. Wallace

Solutions to debris entanglement or "Think of it as a big fishbowl."

B. Heneman

Records of pinniped entanglement in fishing gear at southeast Farallon Island.

C. Hammond

Derelict gill net reported to National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region in 1983.

J. Grove

Plastic pollution in the Galapagos.

WORKING PAPERS

INTRODUCTION

M. Gosliner

Legal authorities pertinent to entanglement by marine debris.

SESSION I

R. N. Uchida

The types and estimated amounts of fish net deployed in the North Pacific.

Y. Gong

Distribution and migration of flying squid, Ommastrephes bartrami (LeSueur), in the North Pacific.

- L.-L. Low, R. E. Nelson, Jr., and R. E. Narita Net loss from trawl fisheries off Alaska.
- J. Neilson
 The Oregon experience.
- T. R. Merrell, Jr.
 Fish nets and other plastic litter on Alaska beaches.
- L. L. Jones and R. C. Ferrero
 Observations of net debris and associated entanglements in the
 North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, 1978-84.
- J. R. Henderson and M. B. Pillos
 Accumulation of net fragments and other marine debris in the
 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- M. L. Dahlberg and R. H. Day
 Observations of man-made objects on the surface of the North
 Pacific Ocean.
- W. H. Lenarz
 Theoretical first approximations of densities of discarded webbing in the eastern North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea.
- R. A. Fredin
 Fishing effort by net fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean and
 Bering Sea since the 1950's.
- K. Shima
 Summary of Japanese net fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean.
- T. F. Chen High sea gill net fisheries of Taiwan.

SESSION II

- N. Wallace
 Debris entanglement in the marine environment: A review.
- J. Scordino Studies on fur seal entanglement, 1981-84, St. Paul Island, Alaska.
- C. W. Fowler

 An evaluation of the role of entanglement in the population dynamics of northern fur seals on the Pribilof Islands.
- D. G. Calkins Steller sea lion entanglement in marine debris.
- B. S. Stewart and P. K. Yochem Entanglement of pinnipeds in net and line fragments and other debris in the Southern California Bight.

- J. R. Henderson

 A review of Hawaiian monk seal entanglements in marine debris.
- M. W. Cawthorn

 Entanglement in and ingestion of plastic litter by marine mammals, sharks, and turtles in New Zealand waters.
- R. H. Day, D. H. S. Wehle, and F. C. Coleman Ingestion of plastic pollutants by marine birds.
- G. H. Balazs
 Impact of ocean debris on marine turtles: Entanglement and ingestion.
- W. L. High
 Some consequences of lost fishing gear.
- H. A. Carr, E. H. Amaral, A. W. Hulbert, and R. Cooper Underwater survey of simulated lost demersal and lost commercial gill nets off New England.
- K. Yoshida and N. Baba
 The problem on entanglement of fur seals in marine debris.
- B. R. Mate
 Incidents of marine mammal encounters with debris and fishing gear in Oregon.

SESSION III

- G. R. Seckel Currents of the tropical and subtropical North Pacific Ocean.
- R. K. Reed and J. D. Schumacher
 On the general circulation in the subarctic Pacific.
- J. A. Galt
 Oceanographic factors affecting the predictability of drifting objects at sea.
- T. Gerrodette
 Toward a population dynamics of marine debris.
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 The oceanic circulation in Hawaiian waters: Facts, hypotheses, and plans for further investigations.

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J., et al.

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potential problems involving gear conflicts and claims of environmental damage, excessive incidental catch of lobster, unfair competition, and overfishing were exacerbated. Gear conflicts involved mobile-gear fishermen dragging through gill nets and recreational and charter-boat fishermen snagging lures on gill nets. Gear mishandling and loss were problems with gill-netters new to the method, but little information is yet documented on net numbers, net loss, and efficiency and destructiveness of the monofilament and multifilament nets used.

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